

# ADDRESSES

delivered by

M. J. Coldwell, *Saskatchewan C.C.F. Leader*

and

Jacob Benson, *C.C.F. Candidate for Yorkton*

(As reported by The Yorkton Enterprise, March 7th, 1935)

Vigorously denouncing the evils of the capitalist system and declaring that socialization, planned for the best interests of the people, is the only salvation for our country, M. J. Coldwell, provincial leader of the C.C.F., opened his Saskatchewan campaign in the Yorkton federal seat last weekend. Friday evening he addressed an enthusiastic audience of more than 500 at Theodore and Saturday evening the spacious auditorium of the City Hall proved inadequate to accommodate all who desired to hear the chief exponent of C.C.F. policies in Saskatchewan.

The Theodore meeting was one of the most enthusiastic ever held there, and cheers and round after round of applause greeted the speaker's statements. Mr. Coldwell termed Theodore as one of the most politically progressive towns in the province. He had nothing but the highest praise for Mr. Benson, who was with him at both meetings, and stated Mr. Benson would carry the C.C.F. standard capably and courageously in the forthcoming election.

Mr. Coldwell was in excellent form and spent over two hours in showing how capitalism had failed and why Canadian socialism must take charge of our economic structure. He explained fully how the

machine had replaced the work of man but stated that the man-made machine should work in the interests of man and not against him. Today the machine worked for capital, he said, but in the new day the machine will work for man.

Dr. D. J. Brass, a former President of Yorkton Liberal and of Hanley Liberal Associations, acted as chairman. He was glad the C.C.F. had selected a candidate of the type of Mr. Benson, who had made a very favorable impression here. Dr. Brass said he had always been a Liberal and still was, but could no longer identify himself with Liberals as they are known in Canada today. The Liberal party had been untrue to their principles and had branched out under Mackenzie King as a sort of conservative wing. Had the Liberal party remained true to its principles there would be no C.C.F. party today, he said. The C.C.F. party of today in reality is the party with the true Liberal ideals, he declared.

Recently Mr. Bennett had offered certain reforms but had nothing to offer in the way of a cure for the present ills. On the other hand the Liberals were offering nothing as a solution to the question. Lower tariffs will never solve the problem, Dr. Brass maintained.

### MR. COLDWELL

In commencing his address Mr. Coldwell said Mr. Benson had won his highest esteem and regard when he served as a member of the provincial legislature. Only recently Mr. Coldwell had heard the present attorney-general (Hon. T. C. Davis) describe Mr. Benson as the member of the last government who served his term "on the trapeze." This term he applied to Mr. Benson because he always tried to place his vote where he felt that it was in the best interests of the people.

A Liberal government was elected in Saskatchewan on the strength of a great many promises. These promises apparently were made only to be broken. Among other things they promised the farmer protection and yet one of the first things the Liberal government did was to put out of operation a piece of legislation on debt adjustment which had been piloted through the legislature by Mr. Stewart, the former Yorkton member, at the last session of the old government.

"On the 19th of June a good many people were disappointed," said Mr. Coldwell. "And so was I. We did accomplish some things, however. We eliminated one party from the legislature entirely and set ourselves up as the official opposition. In addition we secured twenty-four percent of the total vote and for a new party that was a very good showing. Since then we have grown in strength."

### Broken Promises

Holding a Liberal handbill used in the last election in his hand, he referred to three definite promises made by the Liberals at that time. First they promised to cancel and return the notes signed by certain relief recipients for \$10,000,000. There never had been any more deceptive promise made. Months before that time, Dr. Anderson, who was then premier, had stated at Seamans that these notes would never be collected. The cancellation had already occurred.

Secondly, the Liberals promised to remove the millions of debt put

on western land because of a greater production campaign urged in war days. And yet at the recent session Mr. Gardiner brought down two budgets calling for additional expenditures of \$41,000,000. Mr. Gardiner has been mainly occupied since he took office in running backward and forward to eastern Canada borrowing money.

And the third thing the Liberals promised to do was to remove the accrued interest for the last three, four, five or six years and yet one of the first things Mr. Gardiner did was to go to the farmer and tell him that if he needed money he must borrow it from the mortgage company, at a high rate of interest, something that was unnecessary under the legislation of the last government. "There are their promises," said Mr. Coldwell, pointing to the handbill, and: "Here's the performance."

### Relief Demands

Next Mr. Coldwell pointed to a relief note which he held in his hand and which was issued by the present government. This note bore interest at the rate of five percent from next September 1 despite the fact that the Liberal Government promised to wipe out interest charges to those on relief. Bit by bit he read to the audience the printing appearing on the note form, criticizing it as he proceeded. In that note, he said, the relief recipient was asked to pledge everything but his life. It was well that they had included "his possessions in Saskatchewan" because had these words not been added he felt certain the Liberals would have asked relief recipients to pledge their harps and crowns of the hereafter.

If the speaker were to go into a local bank and demand certain money at the point of a gun or if a group of men went out and secured a sum of money by false pretenses it was most likely that in either case the ones to do such acts would get five years in the penitentiary yet the members of the present government had gone out and committed equally as notorious offences and their sentence was to spend the next five years in the legislative assembly at Regina.

In the next few months the pro-

ple of Canada will be facing a dominion election. The Liberals will be back again with promises just as hollow as the ones they made in the last election campaign. They will ask the electors to return a government that got Canada into the depression and the Conservatives to support a government that kept Canada in the depression where the Liberals left it.

#### **Poverty, Misery, Want**

Mr. Coldwell then referred to a joint meeting held at Regina in the 1930 election campaign when P. M. Anderson spoke in the interests of Mr. Dunning, Mr. Turnbull spoke in the interests of the Conservatives, and he himself had also spoken. On that occasion Mr. Turnbull said: "Elect the Conservatives to power and unemployment will fade like the mist before the morning sun and prosperity will again return to our fair land." Mr. Coldwell, speaking on that occasion, had declared: "Under our present economic structure unemployment and misery and want are uncontrollable." "I was right then and I am right now when I repeat the statement

"Forty-six years ago there was poverty, misery and want and when men inquired later as to the reason they were told a scarcity of produce brought about that condition. Now after forty-six years we again find a condition of poverty, misery and want. According to the latest statistics there are 1,152,000 people on relief in Canada today. Twenty thousand young men in the prime of life are living in relief camps for their keep and twenty cents a day.

"In 1930 Mr. Bennett said: 'return me to power and I will end unemployment or perish in the attempt.' Mr. Bennett has tried and tried desperately hard under the present system not to fail in his promise, but he is perishing in the attempt. Now he is grasping a life belt as he sees the good ship C.C.F. going by. But a life belt is not much use unless you can later get aboard the ship.

"Today they tell us we have poverty, misery and want because we have produced too much. Forty-six years ago we had poverty,

misery and want because we produced too little. A year ago I was serving in Regina as principal of one of the public schools, and morning after morning I saw little tots come to the school freezing for want of clothing. Their stock-mittens had holes in them. Their underwear would be practically worn out. And then in the evening I would go home and in reading the newspapers discover that they were actually plowing down fields of cotton in the south because of over-production. "There can never be too much cotton so long as little children shiver in the cold," stated Mr. Coldwell.

#### **Destroying God's Gifts**

The speaker went on to refer to the great drouth experienced in England in 1933. While that condition maintained a great ship loaded with oranges from Spain neared the mouth of the Mersey river. As English children cried from thirst the captain of that vessel received word to dump his cargo into the sea in order that the price of oranges might be kept up.

Again in California in order to maintain the price of oranges a pile of that fruit a mile long, ten feet wide and nine feet high was allowed to rot away.

"Destruction while people shiver and starve," said Mr. Coldwell. "Then you and I go to church on Thanksgiving and sing the hymn 'We plough the fields and scatter the good seed on the land; but it is fed and watered by God's almighty hand.' And we offer prayers to heaven for our many blessings and meanwhile men plan to destroy God's gifts and keep them from the needy in order that capital will be served. Just so long as we continue to support such a system our thanksgiving is but a hollow mockery and our prayers a blasphemy to God."

#### **Efficiency Increase Displaces Labor**

While in Eastern Canada, Mr. Coldwell was shown through the Niagara power plant at Queenston. He found that three shifts of ten men each were all that were required to operate the plant. In

all 125 people were on the payroll. Ten men with the assistance of ten turbines were capable of producing 500,000 horsepower, the equivalent of 4,000,000 manpower of a century ago. "Thus has the power of man been multiplied," said the speaker.

"But," he stated, "every increase in efficiency of the machine, every new invention, has resulted not in less poverty for mankind, but in increased profits for a few. The machine invented by man does not work for man but, rather, for a select few."

Mr. Coldwell then referred to an American automobile factory that required the services of 20,000 men in 1920 to produce 10,000 automobile frames. The A. O. Smith company by 1927 needed only 2,000 men to produce an equal number of frames and in 1935 only 200 men are necessary in the same factory to produce 10,000 automobile frames a day.

In the United States more cars are being made but according to the latest N.R.A. report, employment is not increasing proportionately. Nineteen men in 1935 are able to produce the same as 250 men in 1929 in the automobile industry. Where \$3.00 was distributed in wages in 1929, thirty cents only is distributed today. Mr. Coldwell said he could quote many similar examples.

"When I was speaking in Eastern Canada I told them that today we have more wheat acreage and that even though we have the biggest crop ever harvested, never again would a harvest train leave Eastern Canada for the West. And why?" asked Mr. Coldwell. "The answer is very simple. The eight thousand combines on the prairies are capable of doing all the work formerly done by eastern harvesters. A combine can cut and thresh thirty to forty acres a day."

Then Mr. Coldwell turned from the harvest fields to the present banking system. The banks no longer needed the trained accountants they did in years gone by. Again the machine. The machine balanced the bank at the close of the day by merely the pull of a lever. This may not be true of

the smaller branches, but most certainly is the case in the large city offices.

"Every new machine, every new invention," he said, "is used only to increase the wealth of those controlling the machine. That is one problem we must face. That is why Canadian wheat, butter and eggs are piling up unsold. That is why there are unemployed who cannot buy as they should."

#### Must Change System

"The night before I left Regina I called up the relief office and found that 2,579 families are on relief in Regina. It would be fair to say that at least 11,000 individuals are on relief in Regina; a city with a population of only 50,000. Why are they on relief? They tell us the reason is that we are in a depression. We're not in a depression at all. What we're in is a collapse and we can't get out of it until we completely change the system."

"Mr. Bennett proposes to put a little patch here and a little patch there and thus save the system. I'm glad that he proposes those patches for they won't be satisfied until patching the system is tried out. Patches are the solution offered by the Conservative party."

"And what do the Liberals offer? Their leader, Mr. King, says he has been studying the situation for years. Well, we ask what has he done about it? He put his ideas into a book, he tells us, and there we will find the solution."

"We propose to assist Mr. Bennett in his patching policy, although we realize that it can't work and when the tire blows out completely we'll have a brand new set of tires to put under the new car that will carry us into a land of better times."

#### Demoralizing Men

"What effect has this depression had on us in Canada? Look around you and see for yourself. I was a member of the city council in Regina for ten years and while on the council was a member of the relief committee. When what they call this depression first started men out of work wanted a works program instituted. Today our un-

employed regard a works program as hopeless. These men who have been on relief since 1930 and 1931 have been pushed right down to the dregs. Most of them will never work again. Keep a man idle for five years and he will never work again. Even though he wants to work he will not have the opportunity because at the other end of life's scale are young men who up to the present have been denied the right to work for a living. Even though the patches did help for a time capitalists would not want men over forty to work for them. Big corporations today believe a man over forty is too old. If jobs ever did turn up those young men are the ones capitalists would employ.

"I belong to a generation of young men who marched away to war and destruction with drums beating and banners flying. In honor of those who did not return they have erected monuments bearing the inscriptions: 'To Our Glorious Dead' and 'Their Name Liveth Forevermore.' Of course they didn't.

"Today our young men still march to destruction, but there are no drums beating and no banners flying and there will be no monuments. You and I—oh, if I could only bring that home to you—you and I are responsible. We have the power to make the change.

#### A Great Emergency

"The condition of these older men and women constitutes a great tragedy but the condition of our young people constitutes a great emergency. The remedy is NOW. We must face the problem today before it is too late. We faced an emergency before in 1917 when the guns of Germany had nearly won the war. Lloyd George in his memoirs tells us of how a French general posted machine guns behind his men at Verdun in order to keep them from turning back. Germany was building submarines faster than we could sink them. If Germany had won that war they would have done precisely the same to us as we did to her.

"Germany was stripped of her colonies. She lost many of her proud merchant ships and fine rail-

way coaches. She was called upon to pay sums that were impossible for her to pay.

"What did our government do when we faced that crisis in 1917? They said 'We have the right under the constitution to take over the bodies of their men in defence of our mines, our ships, our railroads, our wheat fields, our possessions, our money.' The government said: 'Young John Jones, you will go to war and for your services we will pay you \$1.10 a day. When the war against Germany is over then we'll make further compensation.'

#### Take Over Wealth

"When ships, mines and money were at stake and a great emergency arose they took the bodies of our youth. Today the bodies and souls of young Canada are at stake and I would do to the big-shots just what they did to the youth of Canada back in 1917. I would take over the mines, the ships, the money we need in defence of youth. I would say to those few men who virtually control all our wealth: 'We're going to organize wealth for public good. We will do much more for you, however, than you did for the boys in 1917. We will leave you sufficient for a good living and your lives will not be in danger. When the war against poverty is over we'll then consider what compensation you'll receive.' What was sauce for the human goose in 1917 is sauce for the gander of commerce in 1935.

"I have addressed meetings all over Eastern Canada in recent weeks. The Mail and Empire, a Conservative paper in Tory Toronto on the day following my meeting in Massey Hall said I was accorded an unprecedented ovation. I tell you, my friends, our people are ready for the change. All we need is to get together and we can snap our fingers at the big financial interests. In Canada today every improvement that is made is used to enhance the wealth of 157 men. If you have not read the little booklet, 'Who Owns Canada?' I urge you to do so. It will explain to you how 157 men, mostly the directors of our banks, practically

control all the wealth of Canada.

"The other day while I was in Ottawa a statistician told me that if \$100.00 was to be divided among one hundred people in Canada according to the present distribution of wealth in this Dominion, \$58.97 would be owned by one man; 22 men would control \$1.62 each, and 77 men would have 7c apiece. Can concentration go much farther?

"They ask us: 'well, if you took things over, who would run the country?' Sir Herbert Holt doesn't operate the things of which he is the head. All he does is to lay down the policy. He hires the best brains in the Dominion. To these men who know their work he leaves the carrying out of his policy. Don't you think that the Dominion of Canada could engage the same type of men to carry out its policy? Don't you think these clever people would rather work to bring joy and happiness to the great masses of our Canadian people than wealth for just a few?"

#### Graft

Mr. Coldwell then went on to explain how unfortunate it was when grafting developed within any system. Should a printer be a member of a council and be promised certain printing orders provided he used his influence for some large corporation or individual, then that was graft. Graft had developed in Sir John A. MacDonald's government when the railroads were built. Graft had sent the Liberal party into "the Valley of Humiliation" over Beauharnois. Just so long as the capitalist system maintains there will be graft. The C.C.F. system, he said, would do away with graft.

Canada needed to be flooded with goods. Only one farm house out of seventy-four has any water service other than an outside well, and only one farm house in eighty-five had a modern toilet and bathroom accommodation. And yet the people who inhabit the prairies have produced more wealth in a shorter period of time than any other group of people in the world.

#### Where the Money Went

"Where has the money gone?" was a question frequently asked. On his recent visit to the east when

he looked down on the skyscrapers from Mount Royal in Montreal and examined the Royal York at Toronto, the greatest hotel within the British Empire, and saw the Bank of Commerce building, the highest of them all, he realized where some of the money had gone. Were one to examine the ledger sheets of the great financial institutions it would not be difficult to realize who had the wealth. And yet it was the people who today inhabit the wind-swept shacks of the prairies who produced a very great deal of that wealth which has been taken out of circulation.

"How will you distribute the goods and where will the money come from, were questions the C.C.F. were asked. Money is just a medium of exchange—a set of tokens. Money was invented to make it easier for a man to trade a cow for a pair of stockings or a horse for a suit of clothes. Money can be made of anything. In the United States not so long ago they were using wood for money. In the south sea isles they use shells. In Canada we use paper where once mostly gold was used. I have been in Canada for twenty-five years and I have never been paid in anything but paper. At one time you could demand gold for a bill but they passed an act forbidding banks to pay gold. Even if they were allowed to pay gold you would receive only 40 cents' worth of gold for a dollar bill.

#### Socialize System

"We propose to socialize our banking system and business structure. We would make money available in ratio to the amount of goods available for distribution. As our productive efficiency increases so shall there be in the hands of our people more tokens to buy these goods. Today we have piles and piles of goods and insufficient tokens with which to buy them. Isn't it an absurd and ridiculous situation?

"The statement 'you can't do this unless the whole world does it' has been disproved, he stated. Sweden is doing things, Russia is doing things. Other countries are doing things. Canada can do things, too."

The speaker stated that "wider and freer markets" would be the cry of the Liberal party at the next election as it was in all former elections. Results, should the Liberal party be elected, would be just the same as they were after other elections. The C.C.F. held that absolute free trade was the only ultimate solution.

The C.C.F. does not believe in bringing changes as they were brought about in Russia. "One reason I am on the platform today," said Mr. Coldwell, "is that I do not want my boy or girl to tread the path of the young Russians from 1917 to 1924. We can use the democratic instruments at hand to bring about the changes. But the Holts and the Gordons are forcing the people to think of other methods."

#### **International Trade**

The speaker stated that there must be trade between nations. "There is only one way it can be done. When we are prepared to trade our goods for the manufactured goods of the other countries it can be arranged. Russia has seen this. She has traded lumber and salmon, etc., for British goods. She has traded with many nations. But in Canada we turned down her offer to trade oil for cattle. We could not use the terrible Russian oil nor send our good cattle to an un-Christian country. At the same time, as it was the Christmas season, Canadians were sucking Japanese oranges and the encyclopedia tells us Japan is a heathen country. There is a reason why the deal did not go through. The Standard Oil company of New Jersey, which is the Imperial Oil Company of Canada, didn't want Canada to buy Russian oil and that ended any chance for the agreement."

#### **Denounces War**

Mr. Coldwell closed his address with a strong denunciation of war and those who make war. "There are those," he said, "who profit from war. We have been close to war several times in recent years and will be close again. If there is war the youth will be told 'your King and country needs you.' Your King does not need you. He is a gentle, kindly little man and no

one will want to hurt him. Your country does not need you to die on a foreign field. The House of Holt and the House of Gordon in Canada and the House of Rothschild across the ocean need our youth. The C.C.F., whether in or out of office, will oppose the sending of one Canadian youth for sacrifice to the god of war on a foreign field. The youth shall not be fodder for a foreign gun."

Here Mr. Coldwell stopped to give examples to prove his contention that war was the work of capitalists, the most glaring of which was his reference to Sir Basil Zaharoff. This man was appointed unofficially by Britain in 1917 to see if he could negotiate peace between the Allies and Germany. After interviewing the Germans he came back and told the British ambassador at Paris that Germany would fight to the last ditch and it is understood that when he interviewed the Germans he told them Britain was going to fight to the last man. Men in the audience, he stated, no doubt still had nickle-plated shrapnel within their bodies which was fired at them from German guns. These men should realize that that shrapnel fired from German guns came from Canada. The International Nickle Company sold it to the United States. The United States sold it to Holland and Holland in turn sold it to Germany. War was simply the result of a vicious economic system.

"I hope the youth of our land will remain true to the principle of the Founder of Christianity at Whose birth the angels sang 'Peace on earth; goodwill to men,'" said Mr. Coldwell. "Who the night he was betrayed, turned to His apostle Peter and rebuked him, saying: 'Put up thy sword within its sheath. He that draweth the sword shall perish by it.'"

"The C. C. F. stands four-square against war. End capitalism and you end war. I'm not pessimistic nor gloomy. I'm more optimistic today than ever. I've just returned from the east where I spoke with groups at three universities—the University of Toronto, McGill and Western University. More students are seeing the light. At these uni-

varieties I talked with the intellectual leaders and I know what they're thinking and in their eyes I saw their understanding. Their understanding appeared like gleams of sunshine through the clouds. If you and I only have the faith and the will to do then the dark clouds shall soon roll away and we will live to bask in the sunshine of a finer and better day than the world has ever known."

Many questions were asked of Mr. Coldwell at the conclusion of his address which the C.C.F. leader answered to the satisfaction of his questioners.

#### **Mr. Benson**

Mr. Benson was the next speaker. He was indeed glad to be present on this occasion with the leader of the C.C.F. movement in Saskatchewan. As Mr. Coldwell had a very vital message to bring to Yorkton Mr. Benson chose not to make a speech at this time.

The Yorkton C.C.F. candidate stated that regardless of political persuasions the C.C.F. welcomed all citizens to their meetings and were glad to hear any suggestions the people had to offer for the solution of our economic troubles.

Mr. Benson stated he wanted the people to hear all sides of public questions. He did warn his audience, however, to beware of propaganda. Wholesale promises would be made by both the Liberals and Conservatives just as they were made in the last provincial election and they will be kept in the same way.

#### **Criticises Liberals**

The Liberals were especially free with their promises. They have al-

ready held one session of the legislature and very few of their promises have been fulfilled. In the last campaign the Liberals criticized the Anderson government severely for being too extravagant, and said they were ruining the credit of the province by attempting to spend their way into prosperity, yet in their first session the Liberal government budgeted for an expenditure of \$41,000,000.

Mr. Benson recalled how the Liberals had criticized the late government for having such a large cabinet. Mr. T. C. Davis said that if he had anything to do with it the cabinet would be cut to five members. Mr. Davis is now the attorney-general in a cabinet of nine full-time cabinet ministers. Before the elections the Liberals were pleading for economy but since coming into office they had not practised that economy, he said.

Turning to some of the actions of the present provincial government, Mr. Benson said: "The poor individual, especially the returned soldier who gave all he had for his country, in many instances was ruthlessly thrown out of a job in order that they might fulfill certain promises made to political workers in the constituencies.

"Consider the actions of the Liberals in Saskatchewan. The Liberals in the Dominion will do the same. Think over what the Conservatives have done and then consider our platform. Listen to what all have to tell you and then make up your mind as to which way you will vote and I shall be glad to abide by whatever decision you may make," said Mr. Benson in concluding.